

URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL  
OF BEDWELLTY.

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REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

and

Chief Sanitary Inspector

for the

Year ended 31st Dec., 1938

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# Bedwellty Urban District Council.

1938—1939

*Chairman*—Councillor Lewis Lewis, J.P.

*Vice-Chairman*—Councillor Mrs. Rachel Jones.

## *Members—*

Councillor Mrs. M. A. Booth	Alderman Evan Thomas, J.P.
„ Mrs. M. J. Jenkins	„ J. J. Panes
„ Mrs. Winifred Robson	Councillor W. Adams, J.P.
„ H. Latchem	„ William John
„ Richard Lanagan	„ William Norman Evans
„ Idris Davies	„ Jonathan Roberts
„ Thomas Mantle	„ James Salway
„ Thomas Henry Werrett	„ George Harris Hodges
„ E. J. Butler	„ David Davies
„ E. R. Edwards	

*Clerk to the Council* ... W. D. R. Lewis, Esq.

## *Housing, Highways and Public Health Committee—*

Councillor R. Lanagan (Chairman)	Alderman E. Thomas J.P.
„ Wm. John (Vice-Chairman)	„ J. J. Panes
„ Mrs. R. Jones	Councillor E. R. Edwards
„ Mrs. M. A. Booth	„ William John
„ Mrs. W. Robson	„ G. H. Hodges
„ T. Mantle	„ David Davies
„ Lewis Lewis, J.P.	„ Mrs. M. Jenkins

## *Sanitary Staff—*

<i>Medical Officer of Health</i> (Part-Time)	... S. R. Macmillan, M.B.
<i>Chief Sanitary Inspector</i>	... Dan Powell, A R S I., F.S.I.A. (Qualified Meat and Food Inspector)
<i>Sanitary Inspector</i>	... Arthur M. Coleman, A R S I., M.S.I.A. (Qualified Meat and Food Inspector)
<i>Shops and Disinfecting Officer</i>	... ... Dan Thomas
<i>Shops and Rats Destruction Officer</i>	... ... George East
<i>Public Ambulance Driver</i>	... ... Elias Jones
<i>Fever Ambulance Driver</i>	... ... Fred Williams
<i>Junior Clerk</i>	... ... E. B. Walters

## *Isolation Hospital Staff—*

<i>Medical Superintendent</i> (Part-Time)	... S. R. Macmillan, M.B.
<i>Matron</i>	... A. M. Valder (State Registered Nurse)
<i>Sister</i>	... S. Edwards
<i>Staff Nurses</i>	... A. C. Stephens, A. L. Jones and M. Morris
<i>Assistant Nurses</i>	... S. Bennett and E. Desmond
<i>Probationer Nurses</i>	... V. Morgan, F. Gwynne, E. Williams, E. Yates
<i>Caretakers</i>	... Mr. and Mrs. F. Williams

## Summary of Statistics for 1938

Area of the District in Acres ...	...	...	7,355
Population at Census (1921) ...	...	...	31,088
Population at Census (1931) ...	...	...	30,074
Estimated Population for Births and Deaths Rates ...	...	...	28,450
Number of Inhabited Houses ...	...	...	6,391
Number of persons per House ...	...	...	4'45
Rateable Value ...	...	...	£98,491
Sum represented by Penny Rate ...	...	...	£342
Number of Births ...	...	...	592
Nett Birth-Rate ...	...	...	20'77
Number of Illegitimate Births ...	...	...	30
Number of Deaths of Residents ...	...	...	345
Nett Death-Rate ...	...	...	12'11
Number of Deaths under one year ...	...	...	43
Of these there were Illegitimate ...	...	...	0
Infantile Mortality per 1,000 births ...	...	...	72'63
Number of Women dying from child-birth (Sepsis and other causes)			6
Number of Deaths from all forms of Tuberculosis ...			24
"    "    Influenza ...			9
"    "    Bronchitis ...			20
"    "    Pneumonia ...			18
"    "    Measles ...			0
"    "    Circulatory Diseases ...			104
"    "    Cancer ...			27

Rainfall	...	...	1932—50'47 inches
"	...	...	1933—32'29 "
"	..	...	1934—36'57 "
"	...	...	1935—36'25 "
"	...	...	1936—51'44 "
"	...	...	1937—46'76 "
"	...	...	1938—54'13 "

Year	Births	Deaths	Year	Births	Deaths
1930 ...	726	318	1935 ...	655	353
1931 ...	700	354	1936 ...	614	349
1932 ...	686	364	1937 ...	532	315
1933 ...	625	387	1938 ...	592	345
1934 ...	660	379			

# MEDICAL OFFICER'S REPORT

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"BODLONDEB,"

NEW TREDEGAR.

JUNE, 1939.

*To the Chairman and Members of the  
Bedwellty Urban District Council.*

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,—

I herewith submit for your consideration my **ANNUAL REPORT for the Year 1938**, which is in conformity with Circular 17280 (Wales) issued by the Welsh Board of Health.

## **Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area**

The population of the Urban District, according to the estimated populated figures of the Registrar General, has decreased again by 190. The figure for the year 1938 was 28,450 as compared with 28,640 in 1937. The census for the Area in 1891 was 6,743 persons ; it increased in 1901 to 9,988, and in 1911 to 22,551. In 1921, the population was 31,088, and by 1931 it decreased to 30,074.

The number of houses in the Bedwellty Area in 1891 was 1,265 ; in 1901 increased to 1,900 ; and by 1911 the number had further increased to 4,079. In 1921 the number of houses was 4,206—a slight increase—by 1931 the number had increased to 6,298, giving an average of 4·7 per house. The number of houses in the area in Dec. 1938, was 6,391.

This decrease in the population, despite the increased birth-rate, is accounted for solely by the emigration of people to other areas—mostly the industrial areas in the Midlands.

As most of these persons are the young and able-bodied, this exodus will have, in the future, a serious effect on the colliery industry which is the main source of employment here. As the older men cease work there will be a dearth of young men skilled in certain branches of the industry to carry on. As long as the colliery conditions remain as at present and offer such a poor return for so hazardous an employment, and until the social amenities of the area are greatly increased, then this exodus will continue.

Nowadays these young persons have a prejudice against working at the collieries, more and more of them are going to secondary and technical schools, and having completed this training they move away from this district to more congenial employment.

Unemployment is still fairly prevalent, and as the collieries are working at present this will always be with us. The introduction of machinery has greatly decreased the number of men employed—and so far no new industries have sprung up to absorb those men.

There is a section of those unemployed which requires special mention: the persons I am alluding to are those who are partially incapacitated through contracting one or other of the industrial diseases. These men are unsuitable for work at the collieries, but could undertake other kinds of employment if such were available. Most of these men are highly-skilled and could again become useful members of the community, if they were trained for some other occupation. At present they are a drag on the State, and they themselves are heartily tired with their present position and would welcome the introduction of some new industries into this urban district.

The general condition of the inhabitants is fairly satisfactory, one scarcely sees, nowadays, gross cases of Rickets, etc., but there are numerous cases of mild forms of malnutrition and nutritional anaemias. On the whole the condition of the houses with regard to cleanliness, etc., is improving and the young mothers and wives seem to be taking more interest in the welfare of their homes and children. Their attendance at Infant Welfare Centres has a great deal to do with this, as there they meet together, compare their children and vie with one another in the care they take of them.



## Vital Statistics

**BIRTHS:**—The number of births during 1938 was 592.

The births for the five years 1934-1938 were as follows:—

1934 ...	22'00	per thousand	1937 ...	18'57	per thousand
1935 ...	21'80	„ „	1938 ...	20'77	„ „
1936 ...	20'50	„ „			

The number of legitimate births were 323 males and 269 females. The total number of illegitimate births was 14 males and 16 females.

### Births during 1938

Month		Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Totals
January	...	28	27	82	80	162
February	...	24	20			
March	...	30	33			
April	...	23	21	79	63	142
May	...	30	23			
June	...	26	19			
July	...	27	27	82	72	154
August	...	30	26			
September	...	25	19			
October	...	28	26	80	54	134
November	...	27	11			
December	...	25	17			
Totals		323	269	323	269	592

1934	...	...	344 males	...	315 females
1935	...	...	345 „	...	310 „
1936	...	...	284 „	...	314 „
1937	...	...	287 „	...	245 „
1938	...	...	323 „	...	269 „

The birth-rate for 1938 shows an increase over that of 1937, being 20'77 per 1,000 of the population, but it is lower than that of the three years preceding 1937. It is, however, still markedly above that of England and Wales (which is 15'1 per 1,000 of the population) and that of the County of Monmouth (16'1 per 1,000 of the population).



With this increased birth-rate the population of this district would increase if it were not for the migration at present taking place. A noteworthy feature of the births for the year was the great increase of males over females.

The still birth-rate, however, still remains very high and it is twice as high as England and Wales, *viz.*:

England and Wales ...	0'60	per 1,000 of the population		
Bedwellty ... ..	1'26		„	„
County of Monmouth...	0 92		„	„

With an increased birth-rate one expects a slight increase in the still birth-rate, but this one is much too high. It is difficult to account for this as the incidence of diseases prejudicial to the life of the foetus seems to be declining, and persons suffering from such diseases are now seeking and obtaining treatment more frequently than in former years.

### Deaths

The number of deaths during the year was 345, showing a death-rate of 12'11 per thousand of estimated population.

During the years 1934-1938 the death-rate for each year was as follows :—

1934 ...	12'6	per thousand	1937 ...	10'99	per thousand
1935 ...	11'8	„	1938 ...	12'11	„
1936 ...	11'6	„			

### Monthly Deaths of Males and Females

Month	Male	Female	Total
January ...	25	12	37
February ...	22	20	42
March ...	19	22	41
April ...	17	8	25
May ...	21	12	33
June ...	18	6	24
July ...	17	14	31
August ...	13	10	23
September ...	15	10	25
October ...	13	4	17
November ...	9	13	22
December ...	11	14	25
Totals ...	200	145	345



The death-rate of 12.11 per 1,000 of the population shows a marked increase compared with that of 1937; it is higher than any since 1934. It compares unfavourably with that of England and Wales (11.6) or London with 11.4 per 1,000 of population, but it is the same as that of the County of Monmouth. This increase in the death-rate is not due to a rise in a particular disease but to a slight increase in the death-rate of nearly all the principal causes of death.

The seasonal incidence of deaths, too, shows a strange variation, being as high in the summer as in the winter months; the lowest rate being during the autumn. No doubt the weather conditions during the spring and summer of 1938 played a large part in this.

A comparison of the deaths from Respiratory and Circulatory diseases again shows the alteration that is taking place. Whereas in former years the deaths from Respiratory diseases were more numerous than those from diseases of the Circulation, now the opposite is the case, the deaths from Circulatory diseases being  $2\frac{1}{2}$  times those from Respiratory diseases (*see table*).

Cancer again shows a high mortality rate this year, and there are now more deaths from this disease than from Pulmonary Tuberculosis, as this disease is (in most cases) more difficult to diagnose than Tuberculosis.

The government is to be congratulated on putting into operation a scheme for the diagnosis and treatment of this disease. In this district one is dependant for their treatment on the general hospitals, where accommodation is limited and sometimes there is an unavoidable delay in their admittance, which is detrimental to the patients chances of recovery. From the data available the most dangerous age for this disease after middle life in the age group 45-65 years, with the greatest mortality between the ages of 55-65.

Among the other principal causes of deaths were Nephritis, 12 deaths; while Violence including suicide accounted for 19 deaths. The number of deaths from Silicosis and Silico-Tuberculosis was 6. Silicosis is fairly widespread throughout the Urban District, and many of the Chronic Chests seen in these colliery areas show on X-ray examination definite evidence of

dust. There is no doubt that the introduction of machinery and the dusting by stone-dust has been a potent factor in the increase of this disease. However, steps are being taken to minimise the risk of the inhalation of dust.

The average age of death, however, seems to be rising :— there were 93 deaths of people over 65 years representing 27% of the total deaths, and 46·6% of persons over the age of 55 years.

### Deaths

Year		Respiratory System	Circulatory System	Tuberculosis	Cancer
1929	...	107	28	17	19
1930	...	54	39	27	15
1931	...	70	53	31	27
1932	...	79	64	20	27
1933	...	83	68	33	23
1934	...	55	82	34	25
1935	...	42	74	22	36
1936	...	53	110	26	25
1937	...	33	108	20	19
1938	...	46	104	24	27

### Infantile Mortality

Deaths of Infants under one year :—

		Total		Male		Female
Legitimate	...	43	...	24	...	19
Illegitimate	...	0	...	0	...	0
		<hr/> 43	...	<hr/> 24	...	<hr/> 19

A rate of 72·63 for all infants per 1,000 live births. England and Wales, 53. Administrative County, 55·8.

Below are a few comparative figures of past years :—

1934	the rate was	90'9	per 1,000 births
1935	„ „	59'5	„ „
1936	„ „	63'5	„ „
1937	„ „	63'34	„ „
1938	„ „	72'63	„ „

The improvement shown in the Infantile Mortality rate during the past three years has not been maintained. This year it has risen to 72'63 per 1,000 live births and compares most unfavourably with that of England and Wales, with a mortality rate of 53'0 per 1,000 live births; and the County of Monmouth with 55'8 per 1,000 live births. The principal cause for this high rate is prematurity—12 deaths or 28% of the total mortality, and these deaths occurred in the first three weeks of life.

Many of these children would have lived had they been in a more suitable environment, and under the expert care of nurses trained in this branch of the work. Mothers with large families and a premature baby have neither the time nor the facilities for treating such babies. I would suggest that these premature children be removed to some special ward in the municipal hospitals, if the home conditions are not suitable for their welfare.

Diarrhoea accounted for five deaths in the age group 1-6 months. As most of these cases are infective in origin, proper sterilisation of the feeding bottles, etc., may minimise the incidence and mortality from this disease.

Respiratory diseases, including Pneumonia and Bronchitis, caused nine deaths; while Convulsions (the cause of which was not stated) accounted for six deaths.

If the mortality rate from prematurity were diminished, then the infantile mortality rate in this Urban District would approximate to that of England and Wales.

## Deaths of Infants under 1 Year during 1938

CAUSE OF DEATH	Under 1 week	1—2 weeks	2—3 weeks	3—4 weeks	4 weeks—3 months	3—6 months	6—9 months	9—12 months	Totals
Diarrhoea ..				2	2	1			5
Prematurity ...	8	3	1						12
Whooping Cough					1				1
Pneumonia ...					2	1	1		4
Bronchitis ...					2	2		1	5
Convulsions ...		1	1	1			2	1	6
Cardiac Failure ...					1	1			2
Other Causes ...	2	1		1	2	1	1		8
Totals ...	10	5	2	4	10	6	4	2	43

### Deaths from Zymotic Diseases

Scarlet Fever	...	...	0
Diphtheria	...	...	2
Whooping Cough	...	...	2
Measles	...	...	0
			4

### Transferable Deaths, 1938

	Males	Females	Totals
Ty Bryn, Tredegar	25	20	45
Royal Gwent, Newport	6	2	8
Cardiff Royal Infirmary	8	6	14
Cottage Hospital, Tredegar	3	2	5
Merthyr Cottage Hospital	1	0	1
Cefn Mably	3	2	5
Mental Home, Abergavenny	1	1	2
Private Houses, etc.	4	0	4

# NETT DEATHS, 1938

CAUSES OF DEATH	At all ages	Under 1 year											Over 75		
		1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35	35-45	45-55	55-65		65-75	
Measles	0														
Whooping Cough	2	1				1									
Diphtheria	2			1											
Influenza	9	2													
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	2														
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	22							7							
Other Forms Tuberculosis	4					1									
Cancer	27														
Diabetes	3														
Cerebral Hæmorrhage	12														
Heart Disease	79	2							4	5	8	21	35		
Aneurysm	0														
Other Circulatory Diseases	13					1									
Bronchitis	20	5				1									
Pneumonia	18	4	1												
Other Respiratory Diseases	8														
Peptic Ulcer	5	5													
Diarrhoea	10														
Appendicitis	2														
Diseases of Liver	1														
Other Digestive Diseases	8														
Nephritis	12														
Puerperal Sepsis	3														
Other Puerperal Diseases	3														
Cong. Deb. Prem. Birth, etc.	18	18													
Senility	14														
Suicide	2														
Other Violence	17	3		1		1		2							
Other Defined Causes	29	3			1										
Totals	345	43	6	1	2	3	5	11	33	37	42	68	67	26	

# PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

## Notification of Infectious Diseases in Registration Wards and in Quarters during 1938

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES	Totals	Total cases notified in each district								Quarters					
		Phillipstown	New Tredegar	Aberbargoed	Pengam	Cefn Fforest	Blackwood	Argoed	Markham	Hollybush	1	2	3	4	
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis	...	3				1	2					1	1	1	
Pneumonia	...	27	10	2	2	6	2		4	1	14	6	6	1	
Scarlet Fever	...	100	4	38	13	7	11	27			29	38	16	17	
Non-Pulmonary T.B.	...	18		5	3		2	6		2	6	8	3	1	
Pulmonary T.B.	...	43		16	6	6	2	8	2	3	14	13	8	8	
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	...	13		8	1	1	2	1			3	2	4	4	
Puerperal Fever and Pyrexia	...	9		4	1		3	1			1		6	2	
Diphtheria	...	44		3	4	5	8	21		3	12	6	7	19	
Erysipelas	...	14		5	5		2	2			3	3	2	6	
Totals	...	271	4	89	35	21	37	70	2	9	4	82	77	53	59

## Notifiable Diseases during the Year 1938

Disease		Total Cases notified	Cases adm. to Hospital	Total Deaths
Small Pox	...	0	0	0
Scarlet Fever	...	100	0	0
Diphtheria	...	44	44	2
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid)	...	0	0	0
Puerperal Fever and Pyrexia	...	9	0	6
Pneumonia	...	27	0	18
Other Diseases generally notifiable	...	3 (Meningitis)	0	2
Other Diseases notifiable locally	...	0	0	0

### SCARLET FEVER :—

		1934	1935	1936	1937	1938
Number of cases notified	...	239	64	37	45	100
Number of deaths	...	3	0	0	0	0

### Scarlet Fever

Year	No. of cases					Total	No. of deaths					Total	Case rate per 100,000
	Quarters						Quarters						
	1	2	3	4	1		2	3	4				
1936	12	11	5	9	37							123.3	
1937	11	5	9	20	45							157.5	
1938	29	38	16	17	100							357.1	

An increase in the incidence of Scarlet Fever during the year, which was not by any means confined to South Wales, led to the notification of 100 cases, which represented an increase of 55 above the figures of the previous year. The cases were left at home, except where circumstances were unsuitable for proper isolation and treatment. The highest incidence in the disease occurred during the month of June, and the lowest in August and December. Most of these cases are still of a mild type as evidenced by there being no deaths.



Serum is available for the medical practitioners should they wish to give it to their cases being treated at home. Those admitted to hospital have been treated with prontosil and other sulpanilamide compounds, but the results obtained were not so good as with those to whom serum was given.

#### DIPHTHERIA :—

		1934	1935	1936	1937	1938
Number of cases notified	...	365	136	89	79	44
Number of deaths	...	32	14	8	3	2

There was a definite decrease in the number of cases notified during the year. Forty-four as compared with 78 in 1937. The highest incidence in the disease occurred during the month of October, the lowest in February, June and August.

Most of the cases admitted to hospital were of a milder type than those of the previous years, but occasionally cases of the gravis type occurred. Most of the cases were admitted from the Blackwood and Cefn Fforest Wards; while no cases were admitted from Markham and Argoed, probably the result of immunisation carried out there a few years ago.

The school authorities are now playing an active part in the suppression of this disease. If any case is notified in any area the children at the school the child attends, are swabbed under the direction of the County M.O.H., and those found positive are excluded from school until they have three negative swabs. There is no doubt that this is having a marked effect in reducing the incidence of Diphtheria.

ENTERIC FEVER :—There were no cases of Enteric Fever notified during the year.

PUERPERAL FEVER :—Nine cases were notified during the year, with six deaths. Now all the cases are notified as Puerperal Pyrexia. Three deaths were due to Puerperal Sepsis, giving a mortality rate of 5·08 per 1,000 births. This compares very unfavourably with England and Wales, which was 0·89 per

1,000 live births; and the County of Monmouth, 2·63 per 1,000 live births. There were also three deaths from other causes, giving a total of 10·16 per 1,000 live births compared with 3·08 for England and Wales, and 7·68 for the County of Monmouth (*see table*).

Now that the nurses are employed full time and are fully trained, and use sterile dressings, one would not expect such a high death-rate from Sepsis, especially after the introduction of the sulpaunilamide drugs, which are supplied to practitioners (free of charge) by the County Council. This rate, however, does not give a true picture of the incidence of Sepsis, as some of these deaths occur following miscarriages which may have been due to interference.

### Maternal Mortality

Rates per 1,000 live births				
		Bedwellty	England and Wales	County of Monmouth
Puerperal Sepsis	...	5·08	0·89	2·63
Others	...	5·08	2·19	5·05
Total	...	10·16	3·08	7·68
per 1,000 total births				
Puerperal Sepsis	...	4·77	0·86	2·48
Others	...	4·77	2·11	4·29
Total	...	9·54	2·97	7·26

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM :—Thirteen cases were notified during the year. Eight cases were from New Tredegar area, two from Cefn Fforest and one each from Aberbargoed, Pengam and Blackwood respectively. These cases do not show the profuse purulent discharge noticeable a few years ago. This is probably due to the universal use of Argyrol immediately following the birth of the child and so preventing an acute virulent infection.

CEREBRO-SPINAL MENINGITIS :—Three cases of Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis were notified in the area during the year. Sporadic cases arise in different Wards of this area with no connection between them and, therefore, it was impossible to trace the source of infection. These cases appear to be associated with an epidemic of cases which have been visiting different

urban areas. Most of these cases belong to Group II type of infection and are very virulent. Serum intrathecally and intravenously is given to all cases plus the sulpanilamide group of drugs. The conclusions so far arrived at, are that MB 693 has a marked beneficial effect in Group I type of infection, but the results are not so good with Group II.

**MEASLES :—**Measles is not a notifiable disease in the area, but there were a number of cases of this highly infectious disease throughout the district. Most of the cases were of a mild type and there were no deaths.

**ERYSIPELAS :—**There was no increase in the notification of this disease.

1935	...	20 notifications	1937	...	14 notifications
1936	...	12 „	1938	...	14 „

These cases are treated at home, or else removed to Ty Bryn Institution or Isolation Wards of General Hospitals.

**WHOOPIING COUGH :—**Although this disease is not notifiable there was a mild epidemic of the disease throughout this Urban District. There were two deaths from cases of this disease, whereas there were none for Scarlet Fever. Whooping Cough complicated by Pneumonia ought to be admitted to an Isolation Hospital if the home conditions are unsuitable for their proper nursing and isolation.

**PNEUMONIA :—**There was a decrease in the number of notifications during the year.

Year	Notifications		Deaths	Year	Notifications		Deaths
1935	...	29	21	1937	...	35	15
1936	...	40	26	1938	...	27	18

The highest incidence of the disease was during January, when nine cases were notified. It is obvious from the death returns compared with the number of cases notified that all cases of Pneumonia are not notified.

# MONTHLY INCIDENCE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES, 1938

INFECTIOUS DISEASES	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Totals
Scarlet Fever ...	8	10	11	9	12	16	9	2	5	7	8	3	100
Diphtheria ...	6	0	6	3	2	1	3	1	3	12	4	3	44
Pneumonia ...	9	3	2	2	2	2	3	1	2	0	1	0	27
Erysipelas ...	0	1	2	0	0	3	1	0	1	3	2	1	14
Puerperal Fever and Pyrexia	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	5	0	1	1	9
Pulmonary T.B. ...	4	2	8	7	4	4	4	1	1	3	2	3	43
Non-Pulmonary T.B. ...	2	2	2	3	1	3	1	1	1	1	1	0	18
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...	2	1	0	1	1	0	2	1	1	2	0	2	13
Totals ...	31	20	31	25	22	29	24	7	19	28	19	13	268

# NOTIFIABLE DISEASES, 1938 (other than Tuberculosis)

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES	At all ages	Number of cases notified											Cases admitted to hospital	Total Deaths
		Under 1 year	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-25	25-35	35-45	45-65	65 and over	
Small Pox	...	1	1	9	5	28	34	10	6	4	1	1		
Scarlet Fever	...												44	2
Diphtheria	...		2	2	2	2	21	11	4					
Paratyphoid Fever	...													
Puerperal Fever and Puerperal Pyrexia	9								3	6				6
Pneumonia	27	1	2		3	4	2		8	3	2	2	3	18
Erysipelas	14								3	2	5	1		
Malaria	...													
Encephalitis Lethargica	...													
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	13													
Acute Poliomyelitis	...													
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis	3					1	1			1			3	2
Enteric Fever	...													
Totals	210	15	5	11	10	35	58	21	24	16	8	4	3	28

## TUBERCULOSIS

During the year 1938 the same number of cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis was notified as in 1937, *i.e.*, 40 cases, while there was a marked increase in non-pulmonary cases. *viz.*: 17 in 1938 as compared with 10 in 1937.

1938—No. of deaths from Pulmonary Tuberculosis	...	22
"                    "                    Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis	...	4

In view of the recent report on Tuberculosis in Wales, Bedwellty Urban District shows up in quite a good light. There is very little overcrowding, the average number of persons per house being 4.45. Most of the houses unfit for habitation are being pulled down while new houses are being built to accommodate these people. The rents of some of the Council houses, however, are too high for the small wage-earner with the large family, and these houses are being occupied by people with smaller families but larger incomes. It would be advisable, therefore, in circumstances where the health of a family would be improved by removal to a more modern house, and where the financial position was such that they could not afford to pay the rent, if some rebate in the rent were allowed.

The position of Tuberculosis here seems to be stationary—the decline in the notifications and death-rate seen a few years ago has not been maintained. The figures once again show that the age group 15-25 years are the ones mostly infected, no doubt the strain of adolescence playing an important part.

With regard to the occupational incidence of the disease, most cases occurred in miners as is only natural seeing that most of the people are employed in the collieries. There were, however, 14 cases among domestic servants. Many of these cases, however, developed the disease when employed in other areas outside this Urban District, mostly in England. They returned home because of ill-health and it was then found they had

Pulmonary Tuberculosis. Many of the cases had no family history of Tuberculosis, and one may assume, therefore, that they contracted the disease while employed outside Wales, or in other areas of Wales outside this Urban District.

There was also during 1938 a marked increase in the number of Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis cases notified (*see table*). As most of these cases are due to infection of the Bovine Baccillus, it is imperative the population should have a good and clean milk supply. Retailers of milk in this urban area do not seem to be taking this matter up seriously. There are no T.T. herds in this area and only one accredited herd. Quite a quantity of the milk is imported—but only a limited number of retailers supply pasteurised or T.T. milk. On the whole the production of clean milk in this area is better, but still there is much room for improvement. It is noticeable that condensed milks are being used more and more in the homes due to the price of fresh milk.

There is still a shortage of hospital and sanatoria accommodation for these tuberculous people and the long waiting period between recognition of the disease and admission to hospital is prejudicial to their chances of recovery. It is to be hoped that the result of the enquiry will foster the establishment of other places for treatment.

Again there have been no schemes instituted so far for the patient discharged from hospital. These people return to their homes looking the picture of health, and after a few weeks or months begin to go down hill again; their tuberculous lesions once again become active and they are destined for further institutional treatment. Now that the enquiry is fresh in one's mind steps might be taken to look after the future welfare of these people discharged from various institutions.

Despite the fact that housing and sanitary conditions are improving—that overcrowding is rapidly diminishing and that



every effort is being made to improve the social amenities of the people—the number of cases of Tuberculosis and of deaths arising therefrom does not diminish. One must look elsewhere for the cause of this, and there is no doubt that the financial position of the people has a lot to do with it. Owing the present low wages they are unable to buy the necessary food stuffs essential for their physical well-being.

The Tuberculous Physician for this area stated that the virulence of the diseases varies in the different wards, and that Phillipstown cases are more acute than those in other wards.

Number of deaths and cases notified during 1938 was :—26.  
Number of cases notified from different wards :—

Notified		Deaths	
21	...	8	New Tredegar and Phillipstown
9	...	5	Aberbargoed
6	...	5	Pengam
18	...	6	Blackwood and Cefu Fforest
7	...	2	Argoed and Markham

# TUBERCULOSIS.

## NEW CASES and MORTALITY

AGE PERIODS IN YEARS	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M	F	Total	Total	M	F	Total	Total
Under 1								
1-5				2		1		1
5-15		3	3	4			1	1
15-25	9	8	17	8	4	3	7	
25-35	4	2	6	1	5	2	7	1
35-45	3	3	6	1	3	1	4	
45-55	4	1	5	1	1	2	3	
55-65	1	1	2			1	1	1
65 and over	1		1					
Totals ...	22	18	40	17	13	9	23	4

## OCCUPATIONAL INCIDENCE

Occupations	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	Males	Females	Males	Females
Miner ...	15	0	1	0
Domestic ...	0	14	0	0
School Children ...	1	2	7	7
Shop Assistants ...	3	0	0	0
Factory Workers ...	2	2	0	0
Postman ...	1	0	0	0
Pensioners ...	1	0	0	0
Bricklayers ...	1	0	0	0
Hospital Inmates	0	0	0	1
Miscellaneous ...	0	1	1	3
Unemployed ...	1	0	0	0
	25	19	9	11

## Sources of Ascertainment

	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary
T.B. Institute, Pontllanfraith ...	12	5
General Practitioners ...	29	12
Pembroke Sanatorium ...	0	1
Cardiff Royal Infirmary ...	2	1
Cefn Mably ...	1	0
North Wales Sanatorium, Denbigh	1	0
Sully Hospital ...	0	0
	45	19

The following table shows the various Institutions for the treatment of Tuberculosis at which patients from your area were treated during 1938, together with the number admitted or discharged from each Institution. [Taken from Forms I and II Public Health (Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1930].

T.B. Hospital or Sanatorium	Pulmonary				Non-Pulmonary			
	Admitted		Discharged		Admitted		Discharged	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Cefn Mably	7	5	10	6				
Glan Ely			1	1	1		4	1
North Wales Sanatorium, Denbigh		3		4				
South Wales Sanatorium, Talgarth	4		3		1			
St. Bride's Hospital						1	2	2
Sully Hospital			3					1
Ty Bryn, Tredegar								
Adelina Patti Hospital				2				
Hawkmoor Hospital, Devon								
Totals	11	8	17	13	2	1	6	4
	19		30		3		10	

### Monthly Notification of Tuberculosis

Month	Total	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
		Males	Females	Males	Females
January ..	6	3	1	1	1
February ...	4	0	2	2	0
March ...	10	4	4	0	2
April ...	10	2	5	0	3
May ...	5	2	2	1	0
June ...	7	4	0	2	1
July ...	5	3	1	0	1
August ...	2	1	0	1	0
September ...	2	1	0	0	1
October ...	4	1	1	1	1
November ...	3	2	1	0	0
December ..	3	1	2	0	0
Totals ...	61	24	19	8	10

Ratio of non-notified Tuberculosis deaths to notified  
Tuberculosis deaths:

Non-notified deaths ... 0                      Notified deaths ... 26

#### Report of Dr. J. Glyn Jones (Tuberculosis Physician) upon Tuberculosis Work in the Bedwelty Area during the Year ending Dec. 31st, 1938

Number of new cases examined at Clinic ... 314  
 „ „ „ school cases examined ... 90

Number diagnosed :

(1) Pulmonary Tuberculosis ... 28

(2) Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis ... 15

Number of patients admitted to Hospital ... 35  
 „ „ „ „ Sanatorium ... 10

Total number of attendances ... 1976

## Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925

No tuberculosis employees were engaged in the Milk Trade and consequently no action was necessary under the above Regulations.

## Public Health Act, 1936

No order for the compulsory removal of patients, suffering from Tuberculosis, to Hospital was made under the above act.

## HOSPITAL PROVISION

### Isolation Hospital

*a. Fever:* The Bedwellty Council's Hospital at Coedymoeth Common, Markham, has accommodation for 40 beds. The Hospital consists of four wards. As stated in previous reports, the provision of separate accommodation for observation cases and patients whose disease, or admission, is not definitely determined, in the form of a cubicle ward, would be a decided advantage. During the year 174 patients were admitted to your Hospital, but of this number 107 cases were from outside local authorities.

### List of Patients admitted from outside areas to the Isolation Hospital during the Year 1938

Authority	Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria	Cerebro- spinal Meningitis	Typhoid Fever	Mastoid	Acute Polio- myelitis	Total
Abercarn ...	0	11	1	0	0	0	12
Abertillery ...	3	7	10	0	0	1	21
Abergavenny ...	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Bedwas & Machen	1	1	0	0	1	0	3
Blaina ...	0	1	10	0	0	0	11
Ebbw Vale ...	0	8	3	0	0	0	11
Mynyddislwyn ...	0	19	1	1	0	0	21
Pontypool ...	0	18	4	3	1	0	26
St. Mellons ...	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Totals ...	4	66	30	4	2	1	107

The total number of patients admitted to the Hospital during the year was 174; of that number 107 were from outside authorities.

In 1937, the total number of patients treated was 198—of that number 110 were outside area patients.

It will be seen from the above that during the last two years more Outside Area Patients were treated at the Hospital than patients from the Bedwellty Area.

I would, therefore, suggest that the scheme outlined by the Welsh Board of Health be seriously considered. At present it is impossible to admit certain infectious diseases from your own area, besides those seeking admission from outside areas, as the accommodation is so limited. The nursing of different cases in the same building throws an undue strain on the nurses, besides making the patients more liable to cross infection.

### ISOLATION HOSPITAL, 1938

	0-5 yrs	5-15 yrs	15-25 yrs	25-35 yrs	35-45 yrs	45 yrs & over	Totals
Remaining in Hospital on 31st Dec., 1937—							
Scarlet Fever ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Diphtheria ...	2	9	2	0	0	0	13
Other Diseases ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Totals ...	2	9	2	0	0	0	13
Admitted to Hospital during 1938—							
Scarlet Fever ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Diphtheria ...	23	79	14	2	0	0	118
Other Diseases ...	6	16	9	4	3	5	43
Totals ...	29	95	23	6	3	5	161
Total under treatment, 1938	31	104	25	6	3	5	174
Of the above there were discharged :—							
(a) Recovered :							
Diphtheria ...	19	77	13	2	0	0	111
Other Diseases ...	6	11	1	3	1	3	25
Totals ...	25	88	14	5	1	3	136
(b) Died :							
Diphtheria ...	3	4	0	0	0	0	7
Other Diseases ...	0	4	6	1	2	2	15
Totals ...	3	8	6	1	2	2	22
Remaining in Hospital 1st Jan., 1939—							
Diphtheria ...	3	7	3	0	0	0	13
Other Diseases ...	0	1	2	0	0	0	3
Totals ...	3	8	5	0	0	0	16



The total number of patients admitted each year to the Hospital during the last five years, were as follows :—

	Patients		Deaths			Patients		Deaths	
1934	...	442	...	38	1937	...	198	...	10
1935	...	250	...	20	1938	..	174	...	22
1936	...	168	...	10					

**Deaths at Isolation Hospital, 1938**

AREA			Cause of Death				Total
			Scarlet Fever	Diph- theria	Cerebro- Spinal Mening.	Other Diseases	
Bedwellty	...	...	0	2	1	0	3
Risca	...	...	0	0	1	0	1
Ebbw Vale	..	...	0	1	2	0	3
Abertillery	...	...	0	1	4	0	5
Pontypool	...	...	0	2	1	0	3
Blaina and Nantyglo	...	...	0	0	5	0	5
Abergavenny	...	...	0	0	1	0	1
Mynyddislwyn	...	..	0	1	0	0	1
Totals		...	0	7	15	0	22

It will be seen from the above table that the majority of deaths were among patients from Outside Authorities, suffering from Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis and Diphtheria.

The total number of patients admitted each year to the Hospital during the last five years were as follows :—

	Bedwellty		Outside		Total	
	Area		Areas			
1934	...	395	...	47	...	442
1935	...	172	...	78	...	250
1936	...	110	...	58	...	168
1937	...	88	...	110	...	198
1938	...	67	...	107	...	174

The list of the Staff at the Hospital will be found at the commencement of the Report.

*General:* The Powell Duffryn Co's. Workmen's Hospital, Aberbargoed, is confined practically to workmen and their dependants. Facilities are provided for surgical operations and X-Ray. The Hospital consists of 40 beds—three of which are kept for female cases, and four children's cots.

*c. Maternity:* No provision has been made locally for the reception of maternity cases. Poor Law cases are admitted to the Public Assistance Institution, Ty Bryn, Tredegar.

*d. Tuberculosis:* There is no Hospital for the treatment of Tuberculosis in the area. Accommodation for treatment of the disease has been provided and controlled by the King Edward VII Welsh National Memorial Association. The County Council make a contribution to the funds of the Association.

*e. Children's Hospital:* There is no local Children's Hospital.

*f. Small Pox:* The County Council provide for cases of Small Pox.

### **Institution for Children**

Provision is provided by the County Council at Cottage Homes, Lilian Road, Blackwood. There is no institutional provision for unmarried mothers in the area.

### **Public Health Officers of the Authority**

A complete list of the Officers can be found in the front of this Report. The Exchequer contributes one half of the Salary in the case of the Medical Officer of Health and the two Sanitary Inspectors. During the year two pupils were successful in passing the examination of the Royal Sanitary Institute and Sanitary Inspector's Examination Joint Board: (1) Mr. Graham Dhenin and (2) Mr. E. L. Jenkins. Mr. Graham Lawrence obtained an appointment as Sanitary Inspector to Devizes Borough Council.

### **Midwives**

There are 13 Midwives practising in the Bedwellty area. They are under the control of the County Council. The local Authority does not employ or subsidise any of these:

Blackwood ...	4	New Tredegar ...	2
Markham ...	2	Fleur-de-Lis ...	1
Cefn Fforest ...	1	Aberbargoed ...	1
Pengam ...	1		

## **Nursing in the Home**

\* Much good work is carried out by the qualified Nurses employed by the Nursing Associations in the area. All wards in the district have a nurse.

The Council contributes a sum of money each year to the following Nursing Associations in the area :

1. New Tredegar and District Nursing Association.
2. Aberbargoed Nursing Association.
3. Pengam, Fleur-de-Lis and Maesycwmmier Nursing Association.
4. Blackwood and District Nursing Association.
5. Markham and District Nursing Association.

## **Medical Comforts Depots**

The two Depôts in the Bedwellty area, where medical comforts and sick room appliances can be obtained for necessitous sick. The staff at these Depots is provided entirely by Local Divisions and Detachments of the Order of St. John (Priory of Wales).

The Depots are situated as follows :—

1. Blackwood—Ambulance Hall, Gordon Road.
2. New Tredegar—Council Offices, New Tredegar.

## **Clinics and Treatment Centres**

- a. Tuberculous Clinics*—Pengam Post Office Buildings, 1st and 3rd Monday each month at 10.30 a.m.
- b. School Clinics*—Pengam, Vine House: Teeth and Vision.
- c. Venereal Disease Clinic*—Nil. Patients may attend Clinic at Royal Gwent Hospital.
- d. Ante-Natal Clinic*—1. New Tredegar : Wesleyan Schoolroom  
2. Pengam : Vine House.

## Maternity and Child Welfare Centres

The following are the details of the Centres now opened under the scheme approved by the County Council (under the direction of Dr. D. Rocyu Jones, County M.O.H.)

	District Served	Premises Utilised	Opening Date	Day and Hours of Consultation
1 Aberbargoed	Aberbargoed	Domestic Arts Centre, Aberbargoed School	1917 Nov. 4th	Wednesday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
2 Blackwood	Blackwood, Pontllanfraith and Argoed	Parish Hall, Blackwood	1917 April 20th	Alternate Thursdays, 10.30 a.m. 12.30, 2 to 4 p.m.
3 New Tredegar	New Tredegar and Cwmsyfog	New Tredegar Wesleyan Methodist Schoolroom	1917 Mar. 29th	Thursday, 10 a.m. to 12 noon, and 2 to 4 p.m.
4 Pengam	Pengam, Fleur-de-Lis and Maesycwimmer	Vine House, High Street, Pengam	1917 Mar. 12th	Monday, 10 a.m. to 12 noon, and 1.30 to 3.30 p.m.

## Ambulance Facilities

*a. For Infectious Disease :* The Council's 'Bedford' Motor Ambulance provides transport for infectious cases to and from the Isolation Hospital, Coedymoeth Common, Markham. The Ambulance was also engaged for the conveyance of patients to and from Outside Areas. These areas include Pontypool, Mynyddislwyn, Abertillery, Blaina, Abercarn, Bedwas & Machen, and St. Mellons Councils.

Number of trips run by the Ambulance                      ...                      278

*b. For Non-Infectious, Accident and Maternity Cases :*  
Two fully-equipped Ambulances are maintained by the Council for this purpose. One Ambulance is a 1938 "Austin 20" Motor Ambulance, with up-to-date fittings and equipment; and the other is a 'Morris' Motor Ambulance. The latter is used as a second emergency Ambulance. This Ambulance Service is free to residents in the Bedwellty area. Telephone numbers : 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.—Bargoed 101 ; after 5 p.m.—Bargoed 32.

The personnel of the above three Ambulances comprises of two full-time Ambulance Drivers and two part-time Drivers.

*c. Colliery Accidents:* The Powell Duffryn Associated Collieries Company and the Tredegar Iron and Coal Company provide Ambulances for cases of injury to men employed at the collieries.

### Public Ambulance

Number of cases conveyed during the year	...	496
Number of trips run	... ..	496
Total mileage	... ..	19248
Amount of petrol used (in gallons)	...	1332
Average number of miles per gallon	...	14.3

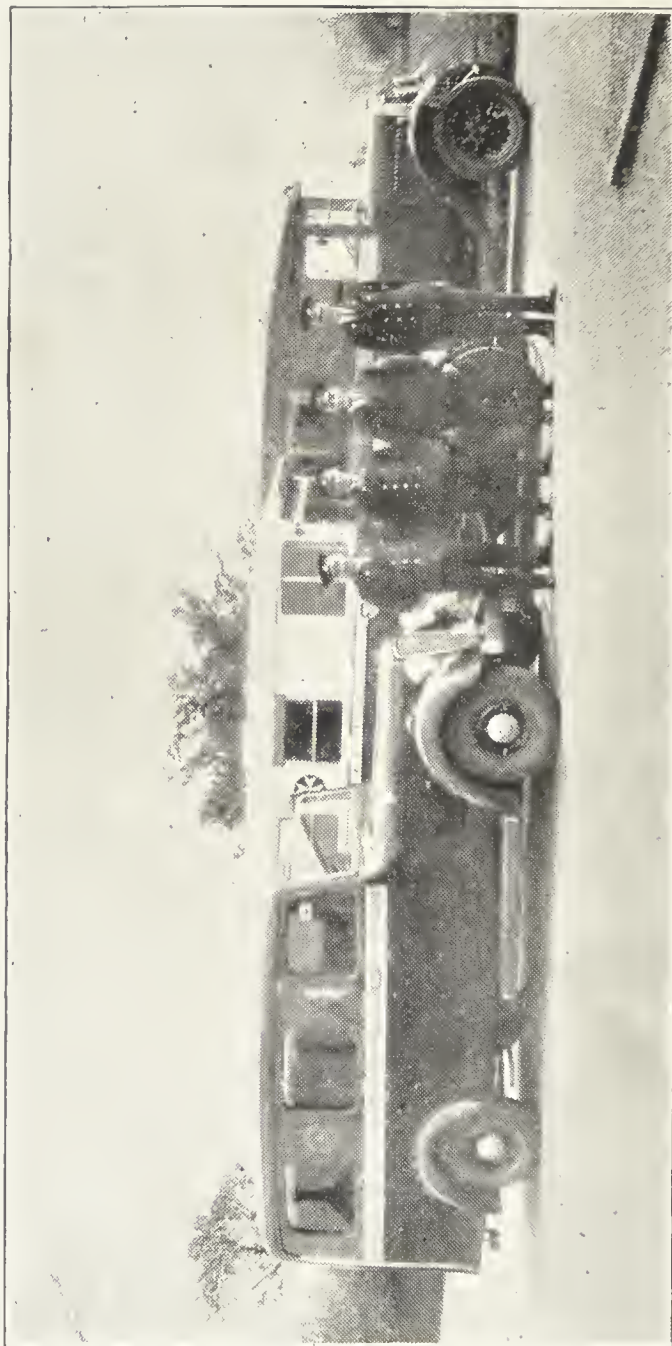
Average removal of 9.5 patients per week

### Ambulance Cases conveyed to and from each Ward

WARD	Maternity Cases	Sudden Illness	Street Accidents	Minor Accidents	X-Ray Cases	Discharge Cases	Other Causes	Totals
New Tredegar	11	13	7	26	5	23	70	155
Aberbargoed	8	7	3	7	2	27	60	114
Pengam	5	8	1	5	2	9	20	50
Cefn Fforest	8	9	1	3	4	13	22	60
Blackwood	5	3	8	5	7	5	15	48
Argoed		1	3	11	2	3	8	28
Markham		4	1	8		2	7	22
Hollybush	1	1	3	1			6	12
Other Areas		1	2	2			2	7
Totals	38	37	29	68	22	82	210	496

## Number of Cases Removed

To and from Cardiff Royal Infirmary	...	219
„ „ Royal Gwent Hospital, Newport	...	70
„ „ Ty Bryn Institution, Tredegar	...	82
„ „ P.D. Hospital, Aberbargoed	...	33
„ „ Cottage Hospital, Tredegar	...	31
„ „ Private Residences	...	16
„ „ Cottage Hospital, Oakdale	...	11
„ „ Clinic, Newport	...	5
„ „ Maternity Home, Tredegar	...	3
„ „ Maternity Home, Cardiff	...	5
„ „ Prince of Wales Hospital, Cardiff	...	5
„ „ G.W.R. Station, Newport	...	3
„ „ Rheumatism Hospital, Bath	...	2
„ „ Clinic, Vine House, Pengam	...	2
„ „ Convalescent Home, St. Mellons	...	1
„ „ Clinic, Pontllanfraith	...	1
„ „ Glan Ely Hospital, Cardiff	...	1
„ „ Cottage Hospital, Caerphilly	...	1
„ „ Woolaston House, Newport	...	1
„ „ Mental Hospital, Abergavenny	...	1
„ „ St. Winifred's Nursing Home, Cardiff	...	2
„ „ Rhymney Hospital	...	1
Totals	...	<u>496</u>



BEDWELTY COUNCIL AMBULANCE SERVICE



## **Ambulance Boxes**

As reported in previous Reports, Boxes have been provided by the Council in every Ward throughout the area. Grants are also given by the Council in respect of each box every subsequent year. The boxes are looked after and maintained by the St. John's Ambulance Association, whose members are doing very useful work in the area.

## **First Aid**

ST. JOHN AMBULANCE BRIGADE:—The organisation has a large membership in each Ward in the district.

A.R.P.—There are a large number of men and women in the area who possess the first-aid and anti-gas certificates. Classes are being held in every Ward in the area.

## **Laboratory Facilities**

All Examinations of pathological and bacteriological specimens are carried out by the County Pathologist (Dr. Gwyn Rocyn Jones) at the County Laboratory, Newport—free of charge.

During the year, hundreds of swabs, etc., were examined from the Isolation Hospital, and I would like to thank the Pathologist and his Staff for their kind assistance.

## **Public Mortuary and Post-Mortem Room**

As stated in my previous Report, the erection of a Public Mortuary and Post-Mortem Room is needed in this area. The Council have satisfactory arrangements with the Hospital Committee of the Powell Duffryn Workmen's Hospital at Aberbargoed, but occasions have arisen when it has been inconvenient to the Hospital Authorities to allow a post-mortem to be performed.

The number of post-mortems conducted during the year, 9.

## **Schools**

All the Schools in the area have been visited from time to time by the Inspectors. These premises are under the control of the County Council. The sanitary conditions are quite adequate, and are kept in a good condition.

The only School in the area in which a proper water supply and drainage are not provided is situated at Manmoel, but it is hoped in the near future that this matter will be remedied.

### **Bye-Laws**

The following bye-laws are in force in the Area : Bye-Laws *re* cleansing of footways, slaughterhouses—made by the Local Government Board, 1893. Bye-Laws *re* removal of house refuse, cleansing earth closets, etc.—made by Local Government Board, 1900. Bye-Laws *re* tents, sheds and vans and other similar structures used for human habitation, common lodging houses, offensive trades, nuisances : March 24th, 1914.

The Council obtained powers under the Bedwellty Urban District Council Act 1936, to deal with the prohibition of tents, vans and sheds, etc., also the prohibiting of sorting of refuse tips and ash-bins.

### **Sanitary Circumstances of the Area**

**WATER SUPPLY :—**The Bedwellty area is supplied with a consistent piped service from the mains, in the Rhymney Valley by the Rhymney Valley Water Board, and the Sirhowy Valley by the Council, who purchase the water from the Tredegar Urban Council. The water in the area is of a good bacterial quality. Samples of water are regularly analysed and each report has been satisfactory. The public health importance of such a service can hardly be exaggerated.

The quantity of water purchased during the year 1938 was 105,917,000 gallons, which is an average of 29,200 gallons per day. The average consumption per head of the estimated population of 10,700 (in the Sirhowy Valley) was 27'1 gallons.

**PUBLIC CLEANSING AND SCAVENGING :—**The collection of house refuse is carried out by the Council, with properly covered vehicles under the supervision of the Engineer and Surveyor (Mr. Dan H. Price).

**DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE :—**A complete water carriage system of sewerage (with the exception of Manmoel) is controlled in the Rhymney Valley by the Rhymney Valley Sewerage Board; and in the Sirhowy Valley by the Western Valley Sewerage Board. The Council is a constituent member of both Boards.

An amended scheme for Maunmoel is now being considered, and it is hoped that this state of affairs will cease to exist in the near future.

**RAINFALL:**—I am obliged to the Surveyor (Mr. Dan H. Price) for the following particulars: The rainfall during 1938 was 54'13 inches as compared with 46'76 inches in 1937. The number of days on which '04 inches or more rainfall was 151 as compared with 155 in 1937. The wettest month was April, with 9'11 inches; and the driest month was October, with '02 inch.

**SMOKE ABATEMENT:**—As stated in previous Reports, the atmosphere is polluted by fumes and smoke from the By-product Plant at Bargoed. This affects the Aberbargoed Ward. A nuisance is also caused by the coal-dust from the coal-crusher in the New Tredegar Ward.

**SWIMMING POOLS AND BATHS:**—No Swimming Pools or Baths have been provided during the year in the Bedwellty area, although my Council has tried to obtain a Grant for the erection of a central Swimming Bath from: (1) District Commissioner for Special Areas Fund; (2) Capt. J. Glyn Jones, Secretary National Fitness Council for Wales. It is hoped that these Authorities will reconsider their decision and give a Grant to provide a Swimming Bath or Pool in this area.

**PITHEAD BATHS:**—As previously reported, the Powell Duffryn Company at their Britannia Colliery have a large and modern Pithead Baths. The new Pithead Baths now in the course of erection in Markham Village will be completed during the year and will be used by the miners employed at the Markham Colliery.

The Baths at the Oakdale Colliery (in the Mynyddislwyn area) is used by a large number of miners residing in Blackwood and district. This is one of the latest Pithead Baths in South Wales.


#### **Rats and Mice Destruction Act, 1919**

Baits were laid during the year on all the property of which the Council are the "occupiers." The ashtips were regularly inspected by a member of the Public Health Department, and baits were laid where necessary. The Tips were also inspected with a view to preventing persons disturbing refuse and collecting rats, etc., from the Tips.

•

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It will be seen from the above figures that the consumption of milk in the area is very low.

 **SCHOOL MILK:**—It is also reported the consumption of milk in schools has declined. The school teachers have used their influence and taken considerable trouble to further the scheme, nevertheless the novelty seems to have worn off. There are over 5,000 children attending school in the area, and only 2,300 (approximately 46%) take milk in school. This is much too low when one considers that milk is cheap in relation to its food value.

The supply of milk in sealed bottles is being adopted on a large scale in the area, and much is to be said in this connection for the delivery of milk in sterilized bottles is the best method, thereby preventing the milk from contamination by dust, etc., during distribution.

The sale of graded milk (locally) has not increased to the extent I thought it would, during the year.

The following persons were licensed during the year to retail graded milk within the area, under the provisions of the Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1936:

Mr. H. L. Lloyd, Hazeldene, Pengam Road, Pengam—  
Tuberculin tested Milk

Mr. E. D. Davies, Caron Dairies, Ystrad Mynach—  
Tuberculin tested milk; supplementary licence

Mr. Emrys Williams, Berllanlwyd Farm, Pengam—  
Tuberculin tested milk; supplementary licence

Messrs. New Tredegar, Treharris, Troedyrhiw, Co-operative  
Society, Arcade Buildings, Ystrad Mynach--  
Pasteurised milk; supplementary licence

Messrs. Tredegar Industrial and Provident Society,  
Commercial Street, Tredegar—  
Pasteurised milk; dealer's licence

The following are licensed by the County Council to sell Accredited Milk in the area:

Mr. W. E. Pugh, Pencoed Fawr Farm, Blackwood

Mr. A. J. Jeffries, Maesruddud Farm, Blackwood

Mr. B. John, Pentwyn Farm, Blackwood



## Milk and Dairies Acts and Orders

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Under section 19 of the Agricultural Act 1937, the powers of the County Council to carry out clinical veterinary examination and tuberculin tests of herds in respect of which licences are in operation under the Milk (Special Designation) Order 1936, authorising the designation of Tuberculin Tested and Accredited Milk have now been transferred to the Ministry of Agriculture since 1st April, 1938.

Where a veterinary inspector of the department finds in the course of his routine inspection an animal in a pathological condition liable to infect or contaminate the milk, he will hand to the owner a copy of his report describing the animal and the condition found, and a copy of the report will also be sent to the County Council.

Much good work has been done in the area by Capt. F. Mullane (Divisional Inspector of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries) in the administration of the Diseases of Animals Acts and Orders, and the Milk and Dairies Acts and Orders.

## Meat and Food Inspection

The inspection of meat and other foods in Slaughterhouses, Grocers' and Provision Dealers' premises: Fish, Fruit and Vegetable Shops: was carried out satisfactorily during the year.

A large amount of unsound food was destroyed during the year by the Inspector, but it was not found necessary to take legal proceedings against any person for exposing unsound or diseased food for sale.

## Food and Drugs (Adulteration) Act, 1928

Mr. A. W. Prosser (County Inspector of Weights and Measures), has kindly supplied me with the particulars of samples taken in the Bedwellty area, under the above Act:

Milk	...	80	Pepper	...	1
Butter	...	1	Brisling	...	1
Lard	...	1	Baking Powder	...	1
Flour	...	1	Margarine	...	1
Sugar	...	1	Blancmange Powder		1
Peas	...	1	Vanilla Esseuce	...	1
Total			...		91

Four Samples of Milk were deficient in fats. Proceedings were taken against two of the offenders; the costs of £4/4/- were allowed in each case.

## Housing

During 1938—29 houses have been built in the area: seven by private enterprise, and 22 by the Local Authority.

The Sanitary Inspectors were kept busy investigating housing conditions and steady progress is made. The method by which the Council proceed (under section 11 of the Housing Act 1936) is quicker than waiting for Clearance Orders.

Demolition Orders were served in respect of 39 houses, during the year. Two houses were dealt with under section 12 of the Housing Act, but were later rendered fit for habitation.

## Housing, 1938

### 1 Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year

1 (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	...	...	641
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	...	...	722
2 (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head 1 above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932	...	...	417
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	...	...	423
3 Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	...	...	18
4 Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	...	...	301

### 2 Remedy of Defects during the year without service of Formal Notices

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	...	...	451
---	-----	-----	-----

### 3 Action under Statutory Powers during the year

(a) Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :

1 Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	...	Nil
---	-----	-----

2 Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—

(a) By owners	Nil
---------------	-----

(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	Nil
---	-----

(b) Proceedings under the Public Health Acts :

1 Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	...	...	45
--	-----	-----	----

2 Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—

(a) By owners	...	45
---------------	-----	----

(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	Nil
---	-----

(c) Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :

1 Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	...	18
---	-----	----

2 Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	...	Nil
--	-----	-----

(d) Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :

1 Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	...	...	Nil
--	-----	-----	-----

2 Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	...	...	Nil
---	-----	-----	-----

### 4 Housing Act, 1936—Part IV—Overcrowding

(a) i Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	...	25
--	-----	----

ii Number of families dwelling therein	...	39
--	-----	----

iii Number of persons dwelling therein	...	184
--	-----	-----



(b)	Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	...	...	5
(c)	i	Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	...	3
	ii	Number of persons concerned in such cases	...	15

### **Magisterial Proceedings**

Upon the Report of the Chief Sanitary Inspector, the Clerk to the Council made application to the Court for Orders against four persons to attend to repairs at certain properties. The Magistrates made the necessary Order in each case.



In conclusion—I wish to express my gratitude to the Chairman and Members of the Council; County Medical Officer of Health (Dr. D. Rocyn Jones) and his Staff; the Chief Sanitary Inspector (Mr. Dan Powell); and his Assistant (Mr. A. M. Coleman); the Matron (Miss A. M. Valder) and her Staff at the Isolation Hospital; and all the Officials; for their consistent encouragement, understanding and support throughout the year.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

**S. R. MACMILLAN,**

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH



# Chief Sanitary Inspector's Report

---

*Public Health Department,*

*Council Offices,*

*Hillside,*

*Aberbargoed, Mon.*

*June, 1939*

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE  
BEDWELLY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

*Ladies and Gentlemen,—*

I have much pleasure in submitting my **ANNUAL REPORT**, on the work done in the Department, for the Year ending December 31st, 1938.

## **Notices Served**

Intimation Notices	..	...	469
Abatement Notices	...	...	45
Other Statutory Notices	...	...	57

## Housing Act, 1936—House-to-House Inspection

Ward	No. of Houses inspected		No. of Houses in which defects existed	
Phillipstown	...	58	...	51
New Tredegar	...	111	...	85
Aberbargoed	...	35	...	31
Pengam	...	30	...	15
Blackwood	...	47	...	32
Cefn Fforest	...	26	...	17
Argoed	...	7	...	7
Markham	...	87	...	52
Hollybush	...	16	...	11

A very large number of houses were inspected for nuisances and dealt with under the Public Health Works.

Four persons were summoned for non-compliance with Statutory Notices. An Order was made in each case.

### Housing Act, 1936—Sec. 62 (1)

Twenty notices were served on owners of houses for not having in the rent books a summary of the main provisions of the Act, and a statement of the permitted number of persons allowed to occupy the dwelling house.

### Overcrowding

Nine notices were served during the year to abate overcrowding.

### Council Houses

Number of houses inspected for repairs	...	124
Prospective tenants visited and reports submitted to Accountant	...	84
Empty houses inspected	...	70
Empty houses disinfested (for Bugs)	...	11
Occupied houses disinfested	...	3

## **Rent and Mortgage Interest (Restrictions) Acts, 1920—1933**

No application was received during the year, for a certificate under the above Act.

### **Rag and Flock Acts, 1912-1928**

Places in the district using Rag Flock	...	1
Inspections made	... ..	4
Notices served	... ..	Nil

There are five persons employed on these premises mostly engaged in repairing upholstery for motor 'buses, etc.

### **Infectious Diseases and Disinfection**

Cases of Infectious Diseases notified	...	...	271
Certificates sent to schools	...	...	147
Certificates of disinfection sent to schools	...	...	142
Houses in which infection diseases have occurred	...	...	252
Patients removed to Isolation Hospital	...	...	47
Number of houses disinfected after infectious diseases	...	...	161

### **Isolation Hospital**

The Isolation Hospital has been able to cope with all local demands made upon its accommodation; also accommodated patients from outside adjoining Authorities. The number admitted from Bedwellty Area was 67, and from Outside Areas 107—making a total of 174 patients.

### **Steam Disinfector**

The Washington Lyons Disinfector (situated at the Isolation Hospital) was in constant use throughout the year, disinfecting bedding, etc.

### **Common Lodging-Houses**

Number of Common Lodging-Houses	...	2
---------------------------------	-----	---

Both premises are in the Blackwood Ward, and are kept in a satisfactory manner.

## **FACTORIES ACT, 1937**

### **1.—Inspections** for purposes of provisions as to health.

Premises	Number of		
	Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers prosecuted
1	2	3	4
<b>Factories with mechanical power ...</b>	26	20	—
<b>Factories without mechanical power ...</b>	49	33	—
<b>† Other Premises under the Act (including works of building and engineering construction but not including outworkers' premises).</b>	2	1	—
<b>† Electrical Stations should be reckoned as factories.</b>	77	54	—
<b>Total</b>	...	...	...

## 2.--Defects Found (In Factories).

Particulars	Number of Defects			Number of defects in respect of which Prosecutions were instituted.
	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	
1	2	3	4	5
Want of cleanliness (S. 1) ...	7	6		
Overcrowding (S. 2) ...				
Unreasonable temperature (S. 3) ...				
Inadequate ventilation (S. 4) ...				
Ineffective drainage of floors (S. 6) ...	1			
Sanitary Conveniences (S. 7) {	1			
	1			
Other offences ...	54	31		
(Not including offences relating to Home Work or offences under the Section mentioned in the Schedule to the Ministry of Health (Factories and Workshops Transfer of Powers) Order, 1921, and re-enacted in the Third Schedule to the Factories Act, 1937.)				
TOTAL ...	64	37		

**Milk and Dairies (Amendment) Act, 1922, and the Orders made thereunder,  
known as the Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1938,  
Milk and Dairies (Consolidation) Act, 1915, and the Order made thereunder,  
known as the Milk and Dairies Order, 1926**

Number of cowsheds on register	...	...	50
Number of retail purveyors on register	...	...	131
Inspections of cowsheds (card index system)		...	97
Inspection of milk shops, etc. (card index system)		...	82
Notices served (lime-washing and sanitary conditions)	...		8
Notices complied with	...	...	8

### **Milk Samples**

During the year, the County Sanitary Inspector (Mr. J. Jenkin Evans) and myself took 78 samples for bacteriological examination, and four taken for Accredited Milk. I also took 26 samples with the Sediment Tester. Thirty-four samples were also taken of the milk supplied to schools in the area.

Some of the samples taken at the schools were below the standard. The matter was reported to the Health and Education Authority of the County Council, and they immediately stopped the supply.

The Guinea Pig inoculation (with the above samples) failed to show any evidence of tuberculosis upon post-mortem examination. The samples were examined by Dr. Gwyn Rocyn Jones (County Pathologist) at the County Laboratory.

### **Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act, 1919**

During the year, "Baits" were laid on all the property of which the Council are "occupiers," especially the tip at Aberbargoed. All the ashtips were visited periodically by Inspector Geo. East, with a view to preventing people sorting over or disturbing material deposited on the tip.

Nine Notices were served on people warning them of the practice of visiting the ashtips.

During National Rat Week, posters were displayed on hoardings and public buildings throughout the Bedwellty Area.



Leaflets giving information as to the best method of destroying rats and mice, were available to the general public and free biscuit baits were given to those who applied for same.

**Sanitary Supervision of Cinemas, etc.  
Ministry of Health Circular 1921. No. 120  
Public Health Act, 1936**

The Cinemas in the area were inspected during the year and the standard of cleanliness found on these premises has been well-maintained; but it was found necessary to again call the attention of certain managers for allowing the means of ingress and egress to become obstructed.

The person having control of any building used for public entertainment shall take steps to secure that the means of ingress and egress and the passages and gangways shall, while persons are assembled in the building, be kept free and unobstructed.

**INSPECTION & SUPERVISION OF FOOD**

**Carcases Inspected and Condemned**

		Cattle exclud- ing Cows	Cows	Calv's	Sheep and Lam's	Pigs
Approx. number slaughtered	...	110	565	161	3876	981
Number inspected	...	100	505	105	3300	920
<b>All diseases except Tuberculosis :—</b>						
Whole carcases condemned	...	0	0	0	1	0
Weight of parts carcases condemned		0	44-lb	0	0	0
Weight of offal condemned	..	0	207-lb	15-lb	220-lb	58-lb
Percentage affected	...	0	11%	1%	10%	6%
<b>Tuberculosis only :—</b>						
Whole carcases condemned	...	0	2	0	0	0
Weight of parts carcases condemned		0	134-lb	0	0	30-lb
Weight of offal condemned	...	25-lb	164-lb	0	0	25-lb
Percentage affected	...	1%	2%	0	0	1%

All stock referred to in the above table was consumed locally.

## Foreign and Chilled Meat

Estimated proportion of imported foreign and chilled meat consumed in the area : 20%.

### Classification of Meat, etc — Condemned

#### 1. Meat (Home-Killed)

Beef Carcases, etc.	...	...	938 lbs
Sheep     ,,     ,,	...	...	50 lbs
Offal (including heads, liver, lungs, etc.)	...	...	305 lbs
<i>Frozen :</i> Beef	...	...	24 lbs

#### 2. Miscellaneous

Corned Beef	...	147 lbs	Flour	...	5 lbs
Veal and Ham	...	42 lbs	Sugar	...	50 lbs
Jellied Veal	...	60 lbs	Lentils	...	21 lbs
Fish	...	18 lbs	Butter & Margarine	...	58 lbs
Fruit	...	1327 lbs	Biscuits	...	26 lbs
Potatoes	...	336 lbs	Rabbits	...	$\frac{1}{2}$ -doz.

#### 3. Tinned Goods

Milk	...	90 tins	Tomatoes	...	137 tins
Cream	...	9 tins	Beans	...	9 tins
Fish	...	37 tins	Fruit	...	136 tins
Soups	...	6 tins	Salmon	...	23 tins

#### 4. Bottles, Pots, Pkts., etc.

Bottled Fruits	...	20 bott.	Coffee	...	2 bott.
Jam	...	38 pots	Mustard & Pepper	...	6 lbs
Pastes	...	3 pots	Bicarbonate of Soda	...	1 lb
Sponge Mixture	...	9 $\frac{1}{2}$ pkts	Salt	...	4 lbs
Jellies	...	2 pkts	Puddings	...	4 lbs
Pickles and Sauces	...	86 bott.			

Total weight   ...   1-ton 15-cwt. 83-lbs.



## Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924-38

Total number of notices received of intending slaughter :—

1. For regular slaughter	...	...	...	9
2. From cottagers and farmers	...	...	...	84

The majority of animals slaughtered by cottagers and farmers were pigs.

Slaughtering takes place regularly at least three days a week in winter-time, and oftener in summer-time : in the three slaughter-houses in the area.

### Bedwellty U.D. Council Act, 1925

SECTION 30 (1).—Premises used or proposed to be used for the preparation or manufacture of potted or preserved meat, fish or other food, intended for the purpose of sale :—

Number of premises on register	...	14
Number of inspections made	...	200
Notices served <i>re</i> sanitary conditions	...	2

Number of premises in each ward is as follows :—

Blackwood	...	9	Fleur-de-Lis	...	1
New Tredegar	...	2	Hollybush	...	1
Aberbargoed	...	1			

# Shops (Hours of Closing) Act, 1928

## Shops Act, 1934

Below is a list of the number of Shops, etc., and Assistants employed in the area :—

District	Lock-up Shops	Dwelling House and Shop	Sheds	Market Stalls	Total Business Premises	Shop Assistants					Total
						Over 18 yrs.		Young Persons		Females	
						Males	Females	Males	Females		
New Tredegar	70	39	0	0	109	54	23	17	5	99	
Aberbargoed	36	18	0	0	54	19	8	13	6	46	
Pengam	39	14	0	0	53	16	7	12	5	40	
Cefn Fforest	16	18	0	0	34	1	9	1	2	13	
Blackwood	116	30	6	20	172	136	146	55	101	438	
Argoed	9	4	4	0	17	7	3	3	0	13	
Markham	8	4	1	0	13	10	6	5	0	21	
Hollybush	3	3	0	0	6	2	1	0	0	3	
Manmoel	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	
Totals	298	130	11	20	459	245	203	106	119	673	

In the Rhymney Valley 198 Assistants are employed, 61 of these being "Young Persons" within the meaning of the Act (persons under 18 years of age).

There is a decrease in the number of Assistants employed in the Rhymney Valley, 198, as compared with 210 in 1937. There was an increase of 41 in the Sirhowy Valley, 475 as compared with 434 in 1937.

## Notices Served

Fifteen notices were served on owners of shops, for contravention of provisions relating to sanitary or other arrangements, as follows :—

Number of notices in respect of sanitary convenience	...	0
" " heating arrangements	...	3
" " not displaying proper information		0
" " Hours and Regulations	...	3
" " other matters	...	9

It was not found necessary to take proceedings under the Shops Act, during the year.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

DAN POWELL,

CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR

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